

In the Claims

Please amend claim 5 as indicated below.

1. (previously presented) A method for treating atopic dermatitis, comprising administering to a subject in need of treatment of atopic dermatitis an immunostimulatory oligonucleotide 8 to 100 nucleotides long, comprising:



wherein the C is unmethylated and wherein X_1 and X_2 are nucleotides, wherein X_1 is selected from the group consisting of A, G, and T, and wherein X_2 is selected from the group consisting of C and T, in an effective amount to treat the atopic dermatitis.

2. (canceled)

3. (canceled)

4. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising administering to the subject an allergen in conjunction with the administering of the immunostimulatory oligonucleotide.

5. (currently amended) A method for treating allergie atopic dermatitis, comprising administering to a subject in need of treatment of allergie atopic dermatitis an immunostimulatory oligonucleotide 8 to 100 nucleotides long, comprising:



wherein the C is unmethylated and wherein X_1 , X_2 , X_3 , and X_4 are nucleotides, in an effective amount to treat the allergie atopic dermatitis.

6. (original) The method of claim 5, wherein $X_1 X_2$ is selected from the group consisting of GpT, GpG, GpA and ApA.

7. (original) The method of claim 5, wherein X_3X_4 is selected from the group consisting of TpT and CpT.
8. (original) The method of claim 5, wherein X_1X_2 is selected from the group consisting of GpT, GpG, GpA and ApA and wherein X_3X_4 is selected from the group consisting of TpT and CpT.
9. (original) The method of claim 5, wherein $5' X_1X_2CGX_3X_4 3'$ is not a palindrome.
10. (previously presented) The method of claim 5, wherein the immunostimulatory oligonucleotide comprises a sequence selected from the group consisting of
TCCATGTCGGTCCTGATGCT (SEQ ID NO:37),
TCCATGCCGGTCCTGATGCT (SEQ ID NO:38),
TCCATGGCGGTCCTGATGCT (SEQ ID NO:39),
TCCATGACGGTCCTGATGCT (SEQ ID NO:40),
TCCATGTCGCTCCTGATGCT (SEQ ID NO:42),
TCCATGTCGTTTCCTGATGCT (SEQ ID NO:43),
TCCATGACGTTTCCTGATGCT (SEQ ID NO:44), and
TCCATAACGTTTCCTGATGCT (SEQ ID NO:45).
11. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the immunostimulatory oligonucleotide is a synthetic nucleic acid molecule.
12. (canceled)
13. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the immunostimulatory oligonucleotide is 8 to 40 nucleotides in length.

14. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the immunostimulatory oligonucleotide is a stabilized nucleic acid molecule.
15. (previously presented) The method of claim 14, wherein the immunostimulatory oligonucleotide includes a phosphate backbone modification which is a phosphorothioate or phosphorodithioate modification.
16. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the immunostimulatory oligonucleotide is administered to the subject orally.
17. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the immunostimulatory oligonucleotide is administered to the subject transdermally.
18. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the immunostimulatory oligonucleotide is administered to the subject by injection.
19. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the immunostimulatory oligonucleotide comprises a sequence GTCGTT.
20. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the immunostimulatory oligonucleotide comprises a sequence GTCGTT and wherein the subject is a human.
21. (previously presented) The method of claim 5, further comprising administering to the subject an allergen in conjunction with the administering of the immunostimulatory oligonucleotide.
22. (previously presented) The method of claim 5, wherein the immunostimulatory oligonucleotide is a synthetic nucleic acid molecule.

23. (previously presented) The method of claim 5, wherein the immunostimulatory oligonucleotide is 8 to 40 nucleotides in length.
24. (previously presented) The method of claim 5, wherein the immunostimulatory oligonucleotide is a stabilized nucleic acid molecule.
25. (previously presented) The method of claim 24, wherein the immunostimulatory oligonucleotide includes a phosphate backbone modification which is a phosphorothioate or phosphorodithioate modification.
26. (previously presented) The method of claim 5, wherein the immunostimulatory oligonucleotide is administered to the subject orally.
27. (previously presented) The method of claim 5, wherein the immunostimulatory oligonucleotide is administered to the subject transdermally.
28. (previously presented) The method of claim 5, wherein the immunostimulatory oligonucleotide is administered to the subject by injection.
29. (previously presented) The method of claim 5, wherein the immunostimulatory oligonucleotide comprises a sequence GTCGTT.
30. (previously presented) The method of claim 5, wherein the immunostimulatory oligonucleotide comprises a sequence GTCGTT and wherein the subject is a human.